

# Border Eagle

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Together we 'XL'



Vol. 48, No. 45

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Nov. 17, 2000

## the inside Scoop

### Integrity first

Lt. Col. Scott Wiebe, 86th Flying Training Squadron commander, talks about the importance of integrity.

page 2

### Savings plan

Air Force's Thrift Savings Plan open season begins—allowing eligible employees to contribute or make changes.

page 3

### Pilot page

SUPT Class 01-02's graduation ceremony is scheduled for 10 a.m. today in the Operations Training Complex.

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### Mission status

(As of Nov. 15)

Days ahead(+) or behind(-)



+1.8



- 3.41



- 3.4

T-37

#### Fiscal Year 2001 statistics

--Sorties flown: 7,838  
--Hours flown: 11,797  
--Pilot wings earned in FY 01: 23  
--Wings earned since 1963: 11,731

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Coming,



Going,



Staying in ...

## The Air Force

### Chief values service more after leaving, returning

By Staff Sgt. Reginal Woodruff  
Public Affairs

Remote assignments, short-notice TDYs and other comings and goings may drive many servicemembers away from the Air Force. It even drove away Chief Master

Sgt. Johnny Hall, the 47th Flying Training Wing's Chief of Manpower and Organization, 15 years ago. However, those same demands and the people who sacrifice daily to meet them also brought him back to a successful career.

Chief Hall, who admitted he hadn't planned to make the Air Force a career when he joined, left the military as a technical sergeant after serving 10 years. He had been assigned to six duty stations in those 10 years and felt a career in the military wouldn't offer him the family stability he needed.

"I had just gotten back from Germany and a high-TDY unit, 1st Combat Communications Group, which was my third high-TDY unit in a row," said Chief Hall. "I was

stationed at Sunnyvale Air Force Station only five months when I received a remote assignment notification to a mountain top in Turkey. Well, I needed to re-enlist or extend to accept an assignment I didn't really want to because I was burned out from my other assignments. I felt I had already spent too much time away from my wife and had taken her around the world in a day, it seemed. So I opted to get out."

The Denison, Texas, native took a job with a defense contractor in San Jose, Calif., as a microwave technician; the same job he did in the Air Force. It appeared he finally had gotten what he wanted. He was doing a job that paid more money and wouldn't take him to the far reaches of the planet.

See 'Staying,' page 5

### Air Force encourages veterans to resume careers

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — The Air Force is on track with respect to its goal of attracting veterans interested in returning to active duty. The Air Force's fiscal 2001 goal for its prior service program is 600.

To date, 73 veterans have

signed enlistment contracts; 59 are prior Air Force, seven Army, four Navy, and three Marines, according to Air Force Recruiting Service officials.

The prior service program that formerly complemented typical nonprior service recruiting now allows the Air Force to

immediately fill noncommissioned officer shortages in certain specialties by welcoming back individuals with previous military experience.

"The Air Force recognizes there is a pool of highly skilled veterans who've served proudly and now miss the opportunities of

military service," said Brig. Gen. Duane Deal, Air Force Recruiting Service commander.

"They may have spent four or more years with one of our sister services and decided to leave for the civilian work

See 'Careers,'  
page 8

# Commanders Corner

## Integrity first—core of Air Force service

By Lt. Col. Scott Wiebe

86th Flying Training Squadron commander

Ever since former Secretary of the Air Force Shelia Widnall and Gen. Ronald Fogelman (former Air Force chief of staff) institutionalized the Air Force Core Values, much energy and effort has been expended teaching and reinforcing these concepts to new Air Force members. That is especially true at Laughlin and other AETC bases across the country.

However, it is important for all of us to sit back and contemplate what each of the core values means to us. "Integrity First" is a great place to start, as this value forms the basis for all other moral and professional qualities required of each and every Air Force member.

Webster's defines integrity as firm adherence to a code or standard of values. In more common terms, it means honesty, morality and doing the right thing, even when nobody is watching. I believe that integrity is not only the right thing to do but is demanded of us by our subordinates, supervisors, civilian leadership and our ultimate bosses—the United States taxpayers.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower said, "The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, a football field, in an army, or in an office." I believe that integrity is not just essential to being a good leader but also a good follower.

A person with integrity doesn't just answer truthfully when asked a direct question. Rather, he ensures the whole story is conveyed and understood. Pencil whipping, withholding relevant facts, telling half the story, or telling half-truths with the intent to mislead or to advance

an agenda is just as bad as telling a bald-faced lie.

A breach of integrity by any one individual causes those around that person to lose trust. We cannot successfully operate in a flight, section, squadron, wing or as a service without that trust. Mistrust, whether inside a unit or by the public towards us, is corrosive and detrimental to our mission.

Some business people and public officials have accomplished their roles despite a lack of integrity, but we in the Air Force cannot. Air Force members are held to a higher standard of integrity than is expected of most citizens—and for good reason.

First, the public places an enormous amount of the nation's treasure in our trust

to be used for the common defense of the nation. That treasure is both in the form of money and in the form of our nation's youth—our Air Force members themselves. We are entrusted to use those treasures to maximum effect and without waste.

Second, decisions made every day in the military can truly have life and death repercussions. Each of these life-or-death decisions is based upon individual data-points, which in turn must be trusted by the decision-makers. If a breach of integrity leads our decision-makers to mistrust the underlying data-points, paralysis, inaction, and faulty decisions may result.

Regardless of your duties, every member of the Air Force should operate with integrity every day and in everything that we do. We need the trust of every single citizen of this country on both an institutional and individual basis. We are held to a tough standard by each other and the public, but that standard has allowed us the well-earned trust of our co-workers and the nation. Be proud that you live by the value of "Integrity First."

*"The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, a football field, in an army, or in an office."*

President Dwight D. Eisenhower

## MTI duty offers ample rewards, satisfaction

By Maj. Gen. Michael N. Farage

37th Training Wing commander

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — "The Air Force is hiring!" That message will become more visible over television as we progress into our multimillion-dollar advertising campaign. Tune in to anything from "NFL Today" to "The Simpson's" and you are liable to see ads aimed at recruiting yet another generation of airmen.

Our success in recruiting has created yet another opportunity to excel. Will there be enough military training instructors available to handle the projected influx of young men and women? Are there enough airmen willing to rise to the challenge of ensuring a well-trained force to carry on the work of those that have gone before?

We have a void that must be filled if we are to remain the world's best Air Force.

There are those, senior airmen to master sergeants, who have conquered the challenges of their current career fields and are looking for new callings. These are the people we're looking for — the ones willing to spend the long hours and expend vast amounts of energy and talent to make a difference in other people's lives.

The job offers benefits; \$275 per month in special duty pay and an annual supplemental clothing allowance. But the real reward is in the finished product. The rewards gained by those who choose a career as an MTI are more of the heart and mind.

It is the reward of the teacher who successfully imparts knowledge and skills to those who had no clue of their own potential. It is the satisfaction mentors enjoy when they have given direction to a life caught up in aimless pursuits. An MTI is a sculptor who molds and carves raw material into the functional and recognizable shape of an airman.

Teachers may have to wait until the end of the school year, or longer, to reap the rewards of their efforts. Mentors may have to wait until the subjects score their first major successes in life. A sculptor's true contributions may only be recognized after their death. For MTIs, the sweet taste of success occurs every six weeks as members of their flights stand tall during basic military training graduation ceremonies.

Nearly every week, I have heard the awe and amazement expressed by family members who see

**See 'MTI,' page 8**

Col. Winfield W. Scott III

Commander

Capt. Angela O'Connell

Public affairs officer

Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Editor

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**"Excellence – not our goal, but our standard."**

– 47 FTW motto

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### Deadlines, Advertising

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, Ext. 5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.** Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be E-mailed to: [bradley.pettit@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:bradley.pettit@laughlin.af.mil) or [reginal.woodruff@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:reginal.woodruff@laughlin.af.mil)



(Courtesy photo)

## Collision

This truck and a Ford Explorer (background) were damaged in a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Arnold Avenue and Liberty Drive Monday. No one was seriously injured. The driver of the Explorer apparently failed to come to a complete stop on Liberty, and was struck by the truck coming through on Arnold. Motorists approaching the intersection on Liberty should be aware it is a two-way stop; drivers on Arnold have the right of way. Base officials are considering options to make the intersection safer.

## Two F-16s crash; one pilot missing

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan (AFPN) — Two Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft crashed Monday over the Sea of Japan. The aircraft, assigned to 35th Fighter Wing, here, were on a training mission.

One person was aboard each aircraft. One pilot, Col. Michael Lepper, 35th Operations Group commander, has returned to Misawa and is currently in stable condition at the 35th FW hospital.

After an exhaustive 48-hour search by rescue teams, Gen. Chip Utterback, Misawa Air Base commander, pronounced the other pilot, Capt. Warren B. Sneed, lost at sea and deceased.

"The entire Misawa community feels the loss of Captain Sneed and our thoughts and prayers go out to the Sneed family. Warren died in the defense of his country. His spirit, strength of character and constant smile are legacies that can now be used to bring us all together in this tough time," said Utterback.

The search covered hundreds of square miles and involved the Japan Self Defense Forces, the Japan Maritime Safety Agency, the U.S. Navy's Kitty Hawk Battle Group and the U.S. Air Force. A board of officers will investigate the accident.

## AAFES removes drugs with PPA

DALLAS (AFPN) — The Army and Air Force Exchange Service has removed any drugs containing phenylpropanolamine from its shelves after a Food and Drug Administration warning to consumers to stop using over-the-counter cough and cold medications and appetite suppressants (diet pills) containing PPA.

According to the FDA, PPA could cause hemorrhagic strokes, or bleeding in the brain, in young women.

**See 'PPA,' page 9**

## Thrift Savings Plan open season begins

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPC) - The next open season for the Thrift Savings Plan continues through Jan. 31, 2001. During this time, eligible employees can elect to contribute to TSP or make changes to their current contributions.

TSP is a voluntary retirement savings and investment plan for Federal civilian employees. Two of the main features of TSP are before tax savings and tax-deferred earnings.

"This means the contributions you make to TSP come out of your pay before taxes and the earnings made on your TSP account are not taxed until you receive the money," said Christine Watkins, employee relations specialist, Benefits and Entitlements Service Team. "Other features of the plan include a choice of investment options, interfund transfers, loans from your own contributions and earnings, in-service withdrawals, and portable benefits if you leave Federal service."

Watkins explained that contribution limits set by the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board are based upon an

employee's retirement system.

"Employees covered by the Federal Employees' Retirement System can contribute up to 10 percent of their basic pay each pay period and the government will provide matching funds up to 4 percent," said Watkins. "In addition, the government will contribute an automatic one percent of the employees basic pay to their account each pay period whether they contribute or not. The maximum government contribution is 5 percent."

"Employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System can contribute up to 5 percent of their basic pay each pay period, but do not receive any agency contributions. However, they do benefit from the tax savings and the tax deferred earnings."

All TSP participants can choose to invest any portion of their TSP account in one or more of the three TSP funds: the Government Securities Investment (G) Fund, the Common Stock Index Investment (C) Fund, and the Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund. The S-Small Capitalization Index Fund and the I-International Stock Index Fund will not be

available until May 2001.

Information on these funds can be found in the Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan for Federal Employees booklet which employees can obtain as well as other TSP information by accessing TSP's homepage at <http://www.tsp.gov> or the Benefits and Entitlements Service Team homepage at [http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST\\_GRB/EBIS.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST_GRB/EBIS.htm).

Employees serviced by the Air Force Personnel Center may make their TSP elections or changes through the BEST-automated phone system at 1-800-997-2378 (527-2378, if calling within the San Antonio area) or by accessing the BEST web-site above. Employees needing assistance can speak with a BEST counselor by calling the automated phone system, pressing 3 for TSP and then 0. Counselors are available Monday - Friday, from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Central Standard Time.

Hearing Impaired employees can reach a Benefits Counselor by calling 1-800-382-0893 or 565-2276, if calling within the San Antonio area.

## Actionline

Call 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your in-

quiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the *Border Eagle*. Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.



Winfield W. Scott III  
Col. Winfield W. Scott III  
47th Flying Training Wing commander

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Inspector General	298-5638
Legal	298-5172
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810
Equal Opportunity	298-5400
FWA hotline	298-4170



# Air Force to balance workforce

By Staff Sgt Cynthia Miller

Headquarters United States Air Force

WASHINGTON – A recent executive order signed by the president will help the Air Force counter its out-of-balance workforce by requiring the service to hire 7,000 employees with disabilities.

Executive Order 13163, “Increasing the Number of Individuals with Disabilities Employed in the Federal Government,” takes effect Sunday and requires the hiring of 100,000 new persons with disabilities over the next five years.

The Air Force’s fair share, as calculated by the Department of Defense, is 7,000 new hires and comes at a time when Air Force officials report 45 percent of the current civilian workforce will become eligible to retire within the same time frame.

The Air Force hiring plan, an appendix to the DoD plan, was signed Tuesday by Defense Secretary William Cohen and sent to the Office of Personnel Management and the Presidential Task Force on the Employment of Adults with Disabilities. The Air Force plan will be released to major commands, field operating agencies and direct reporting units for enactment.

The Air Force plan began with a goal of hiring 800 persons with disabilities in fiscal 2001, and build momentum over five years, according to Colleen Corcoran, with the Air Force Directorate of Personnel Management’s Civilian Policy Division.

“The hiring goals initially sound staggering,” she said. “But historical data shows we hired 657 persons with disabilities in fiscal 1999, so our initial stretch is not overwhelming. The success of the Air Force plan lies with each command and activity. Their focus and participation will ensure the Air Force succeeds.”

To achieve its hiring goal, the Air Force will increase its recruitment efforts at universities and colleges, job fairs, trade schools, and vocational centers.

“Each college and university has an office geared toward servicing people with disabilities, so we’re making contact with those people as we go on our previously scheduled recruitment trips,” Corcoran said. “We will also make sure all employment information is easily accessible.”

Federal guidelines require at least 25 percent of new hires to be people with severe or targeted disabilities as

established by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

These include visible and invisible disabilities such as partial paralysis, deafness, blindness, missing extremities, retardation and recovery from mental illness.

“In the Department of Defense, we’ve always been geared to look for able-bodied people who can serve throughout the world”, Corcoran said. “(The Air Fore plan will) bring awareness to our management officials so they will take into consideration that the nation has a significant number of highly qualified people with disabilities who can contribute to the Air Force mission, and that we need to get them into our workforce.”

The service will also make use of the workforce recruitment program, a student summer hiring program often leading to permanent employment.

Hired under the workforce recruitment program five summers ago, Regina Duncan has worked for four different agencies in the Pentagon and recently graduated from East Carolina University with a master’s degree in public administration. She looks forward to the day her summer job turns into a permanent one.

“It’s possible I may be the first person hired under the executive order,” said the 27-year old, who has a rare, neuromuscular disease called spinal muscular atrophy. She began work Sept. 30 as a personnel specialist for the 11th Wing in the Washington D.C. area.

“There are more educated and qualified disabled people in the country who can’t get jobs because they are discriminating against,” she said. “This initiative is a good opportunity for the Air Force to increase its diversity, and a good opportunity for the disabled to get experience in the workplace.”

To help prospective employers accommodate the needs of employees with disabilities, the DoD established the Computer and Electronic Accommodations Program five years ago. The CAP, based in Falls Church, VA., provides technological solutions in the form of specialized equipment, to employers.

“Depending on what type of accommodation an individual may need, the CAP will provide an office with assistive technology,” Corcoran said. “The CAP program also evaluates office areas, equips individual homes for telecommuting, and provides training assistance.”

# Pay raises highlight importance of quality of life

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31, 2000 — Pay provisions in the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 emphasize the importance of quality of life to DoD, starting with an across-the-board 3.7 percent raise for service members beginning Jan. 1, 2001.

“The 3.7 percent is a great deal for service members in that it is a percent higher than it otherwise would be by law,” said Navy Capt. Elliott Bloxom, DoD director of military compensation. President Clinton signed the authorization bill into law Oct. 30.

The raise is set half a percentage point higher than the Employment Cost Index, a measure of private sector wage increases. The law previously sets military pay raises at a half percent below the index, but Congress voted to override that law help bring servicemembers pay closer to their civilian counterparts.

“Last year Congress passed ECI plus a half for pay raises through fiscal 2006,” Bloxom said. This will help close the perceived “pay gap” between the military and civilian counterparts.

Another pay action affects NCOs in grades E-5 to E-7 with eight to 24 years of service. The targeted July raise will increase their pay \$30 to \$60, Bloxom said.

DoD favored postponing further weighted raises pending the findings of the ongoing Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation. The review panel is specifically looking at enlisted pay issues.

“We feel the July raise is a move in the right direction, but thought it was premature to enact that pay raise prior to the completion of the study,” Bloxom said. “But Congress enacted it and it will go into effect July 1.”

The review panel will finish its work by the end of the year, Bloxom said. Based on the results of the study, future levels of pay could be subject to further action.

FILLER

‘Staying,’ from page 1

However, Chief Hall quickly became bored and, after 13 months, he came back in the Air Force. “I missed the people, the camaraderie and even the excitement of traveling,” said Hall. “I couldn’t see real advancement as a microwave technician

in the company or the area I was working.” The process to rejoin the service wasn’t difficult. Then, as now, the Air Force was welcoming skilled, former veterans back into undermanned career fields. Hall located a recruiter and discussed his options, and in

a short time, he had his old job back and was a technical sergeant again. His first assignment was with the 3rd Combat Communications Group, Tinker AFB, Okla. “So I was back to going TDY and spending a lot of time in the field,” Hall said with a

chuckle. Surprisingly, the person most excited about Hall rejoining the military was his wife. “He never should have gotten out in the first place,” said Cindy Hall. “It was his decision to make so I supported it, but I felt he had too much time in. When he told me

he was thinking about rejoining, I strongly encouraged him to go back. It’s where he belongs; it’s where we belong.” Being away helped him appreciate the Air Force and understand what separates it from working in the civilian sector. “One thing I’ve learned is it’s the people who make the Air Force great; not the planes or technology, but our people,” said Chief Hall emphatically. “During my 24 years, I have had the opportunity to meet some really outstanding people who touched my life in many ways. As we speak, I know there are Air Force people dedicated to our mission and ensuring our nation is protected here and abroad. Not too many civilian jobs can say the same.”

Chief Hall encourages people deciding whether to stay or leave to get informed, think hard and don’t make a decision based on a single event. The Air Force is a rewarding, yet demanding profession with requirements far beyond those of most civilian companies. “If you like what you are doing and the people, I say stay in and commit yourself to the Air Force; it really is a great way of life,” he said. “If you don’t like your current job, seek a new career. I retrained as a technical sergeant after 14 years as a microwave equipment technician, and I still made chief. Don’t let an assignment or a bad supervisor influence your career decision. “The key thing to consider and remember is that the Air Force is a profession of arms and one day we may have to defend our country with our lives. Not everyone is willing to make that commitment for our freedoms, regardless of the incentives we present. However, we should thank them for their honorable service and wish them well.”

As a chief master sergeant (for three months), demands have increased on Chief Hall. The Air Force has added more meetings, more TDYs and more official functions to his existing requirements. But you won’t hear him complain. He’s glad he came into the Air Force and, after returning to the civilian sector, he’s even happier he re-joined the service – and all its comings and goings.

## Question of the week

### Should electoral votes or popular votes determine the presidential race in future elections?



“Electoral votes. The founding fathers had reasons for deciding it that way and those reasons are still valid today.”

**Maj. Phillip Scheller**  
*87th Flying Training Wing*



“Popular vote. Our country’s government is designed to be run by the people.”

**Airman 1st Class Michael Mazza**  
*47th Aeromedical Dental Squadron*



“I think they are both good because electoral votes keep people who do not take voting seriously from running the country. But there are also a lot of people who take the election seriously and look into both candidates, so popular votes are good for that reason.”

**Joey Mills**  
*Family member*



“Electoral votes. It was designed to give power to the state and in fact protect smaller states. By removing it, the smaller states would not be heard.”

**Jennifer Seaburg**  
*Family Member*



## Chapel Schedule

### Catholic

-**Daily Mass** Monday/ Thursday, 12:05 p.m. Tuesday/ Wednesday, 6:30 a.m.  
-**Saturday Vigil Mass** 5 p.m.  
-**Sunday Mass** 9:30 a.m.  
-**Confession** 4:15 - 4:45 p.m. Saturday, or by appointment.  
-**Choir** 6 p.m. Thursdays.  
-**Sunday school** 11 a.m., religious education building.

### Protestant

-General worship 11 a.m.

### Chapel Youth Group

-Thursday, 7 p.m. Chapel Fellowship Hall.

### Religious education

-Little Rock Scripture Study in Chapel Fellowship Hall, Sunday, 11 a.m.

### Jewish

Max Stool  
219 West Strickland St.  
Del Rio, Texas  
Phone: 775-4519

**For more information on chapel events, call 5111.**

Filler

# The XLer

**Hometown:** Oak Harbor, Ohio  
**Family:** Wife, Sianna, son, Brendyn  
**Time at Laughlin:** 1 year, 5 months  
**Time in service:** 10 years, 10 months  
**Why did you join the Air Force:** To travel and learn discipline.  
**Name one way to improve life at Laughlin:** People should handle their own affairs.  
**Greatest accomplishment:** Being a father  
**Bad habit:** Chewing too much Skoal.  
**Motto:** “There’s only one way to succeed in anything, and that’s giving everything”  
**Favorite beverage:** Sonic blue Kool-Aid.  
**Favorite food:** Pizza.  
**Hobbies:** Fishing, hunting, shooting trap and skeet, hiking or anything outdoors.  
**If you could spend one hour with an historical figure, who would it be?** Vince Lombardi  
**Why?** He said, “football is a great deal like life in that it teaches that work, sacrifice, perseverance, competitive drive, selflessness and respect for authority is the price that each and every one must pay to achieve any goal that is worthwhile.” (No, I’m not a Packers fan)



**Staff Sgt. John Fastinger**  
47th Support Group

# Where are they now

**Name:** Maj. Nick P. Radovcich  
**Class/Date of graduation from Laughlin:** Class 88-08.  
**Aircraft you now fly and base you are stationed at:** F-15E, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.  
**Mission of your aircraft?** All weather fighter/bomber.  
**What do you like most about your current aircraft?** Multiple missions, true swing role fighter aircraft, two-person crew.  
**What do you dislike most about your current aircraft?** Takes a great amount of training to become proficient in all roles.  
**What was the most important thing you learned at Laughlin besides learning**



(F-15, courtesy photo)

**to fly?** Prioritizing of goals, perseverance.  
**What is your most memorable experience from Laughlin?** Receiving my wings.  
**What advice would you give SUPT students at Laughlin?** Get your wings; should be your primary goal.

## ‘Careers,’ from page 1

force,” Deal said. “Now they miss the teamwork, discipline, and opportunities of the military and want to serve again on active duty. Instead of donning Army green or Marine khakis, they want to build on those skills with a career in the Air Force. This program allows them to do that.”

In previous years recruiters were given credit for enlisting people with no previous military experience, but, prior service military members did not count toward their annual goal — although nearly 900 veterans returned during fiscal 2000. This fiscal year’s goal of 34,600 new recruits now includes prior service members.

- The basic criteria for enlisted members to re-enter the active force are:
- Be re-enlistment eligible at time of separation
  - Have served no more than 12 years of active service
  - Have not been separated more than four years when they re-enter active duty
  - Be in the grade of E-4 through E-6.

Reserve and Guard members are also eligible to participate, with commander approval.

Veterans of all services may resume a career in America’s Air Force without an administrative waiting period.

For more information about joining the Air Force, people can contact their local Air Force recruiter, call the Air Force Opportunities Center at 1-800-423-USAFA, or visit Online.

## ‘MTI,’ from page 2

their sons and daughters, sisters and brothers, spouses and fiancés who have been transformed by the efforts of these miracle workers in blue hats. I am constantly amazed.

There is a sense that the MTIs have effectively imparted the Air Force core values of excellence, integrity and service before self to those who are just beginning their great adventure, probably their first real challenge. All MTIs hope their

preparations will allow their charges to effectively meet the challenges of the future.

We have a particular need for women who feel they can contribute to the MTI program. Currently, 27 percent of all trainees are women, but less than 14 percent of MTIs are female.

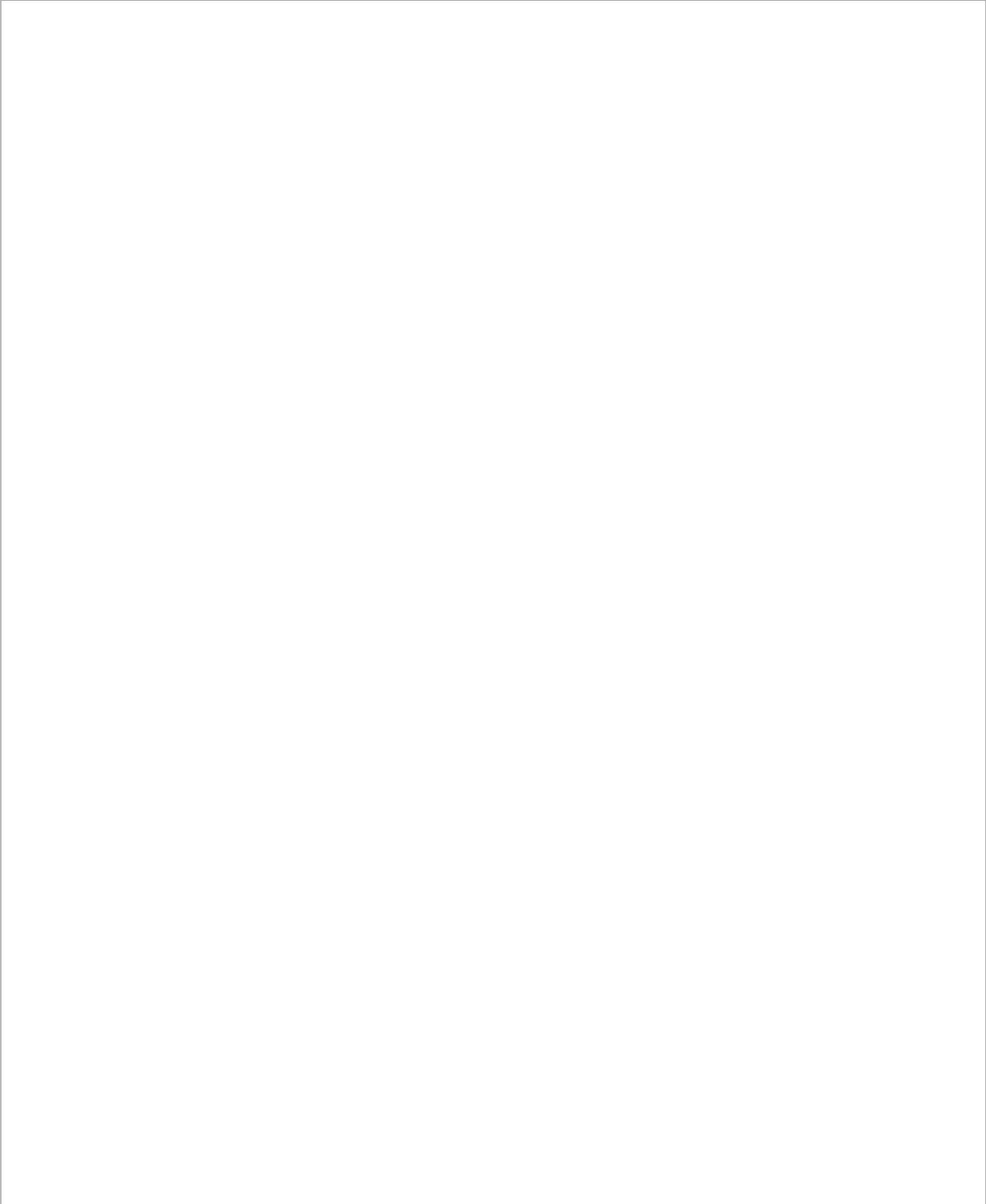
More female instructors would portray women in supervisory positions; perfect role models for trainees and a more accurate reflection of the Air Force at large.

We are responsible for sending the Air Force the best prepared airmen in the world. To

do this we must call upon the top performers in the field to come back to their roots at Lackland Air Force Base and help perpetuate what we have worked so hard to sustain.

There is a step beyond current professional job competence, and right now the need is

strong. If we are to maintain our position as the best, there must be those willing to come to Lackland AFB, the “Gateway of the Air Force,” and help us usher new airmen through this gateway on their way to productive careers. It is the ultimate repayment.





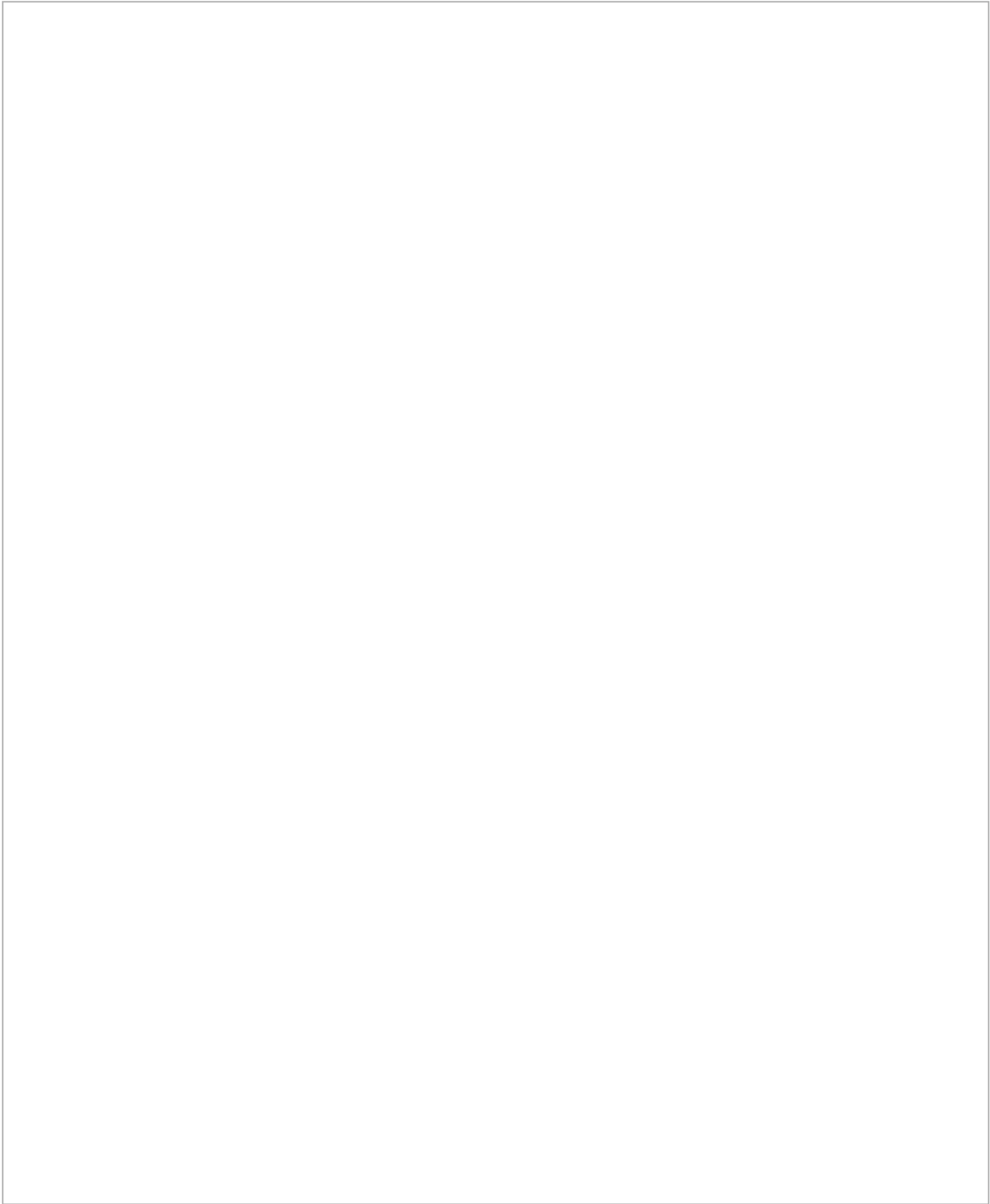
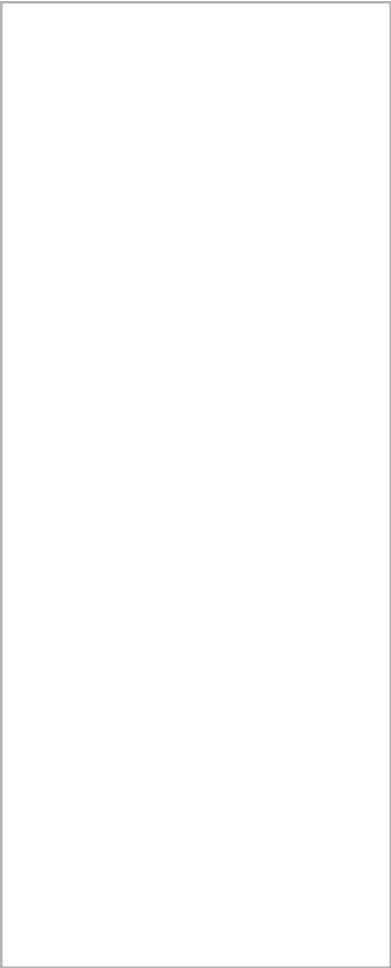
‘PPA,’ from page 3

Among the products affected are cough-cold remedies such as Alka-Seltzer Plus, Dimetapp and Triaminic, along with the diet pills Dexatrim and Acutrim. Customers with cough and cold symptoms can purchase other over-the-counter drugs such as Sudafed, Benadryl, Drixoral and AAFES-brand products containing a safe alternative called pseudoephedrine, said exchange service officials.

The AAFES’ sales directorate has compiled a complete listing of drugs containing PPA to assist its managers with the removal process. AAFES customers will be offered the opportunity to return any unused product for a full refund.

“It’s important to remember that this notice by the FDA is only a warning and not a recall or formal ban,” said Mike Beverly, AAFES chief operating officer. “However, we feel that this warning is of such significance that we’re taking this immediate action.”

Customers should review ingredient labels to see if phenylpropanolamine is listed. If you have any questions regarding this action, the FDA has established a direct toll-free line at 1-888-463-6332, or consult your health care provider.



# Winged and ready: SUPT Class 01-02 graduates today



**Maj. Gary D. Schropp**  
C-130J – Baltimore, Md (ANG)  
Class Leader



**Capt. Paige E. Augustino**  
KC-135 – Milwaukee, Wis. (ANG)  
Assistant Class Leader



**1st Lt. Kevin S. Currie**  
F-15E – Seymour Johnson, N.C.



**1st Lt. Jeffrey W. Mohr**  
F-15C – Tyndall AFB, Fla.



**1st Lt. Thomas P. Pagano**  
F-16 – Luke AFB, Ariz.



**2nd Lt. Eric R. Bippert**  
C-17 – Charleston AFB, S.C.



**2nd Lt. Corbett H. Bufton**  
T-1 – Laughlin AFB, Texas



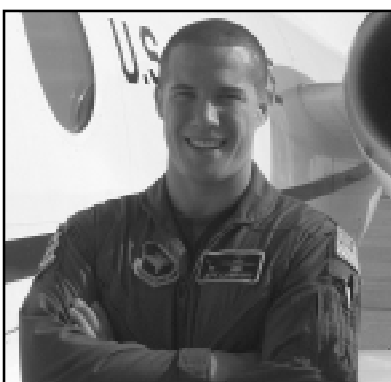
**2nd Lt. Jon D. Holland**  
C-5 – Dover AFB, Del. (AFRC)



**2nd Lt. Michelle L. Kenner**  
KC-135 – McConnell AFB, Kan.



**2nd Lt. William R. Kincaid**  
F-15C – Tyndall AFB, Fla.



**2nd Lt. Jeff A. Lamport**  
C-141 – McGuire AFB, N.J.



**2nd Lt. Theodore A. Langstroth IV**  
C-21 – Maxwell AFB, Ala.



**2nd Lt. Todd M. Larsen**  
C-5 – Dover AFB, Del.



**2nd Lt. Timothy J. McCann**  
C-21 – Stuttgart AB, Germany



**2nd Lt. Aaron M. Mihaljevich**  
F-15E – Seymour Johnson, N.C.



**2nd Lt. Byron Rodenburg, Jr.**  
KC-135 – Kadena AB, Japan



**2nd Lt. Cameron B. Shirley**  
B-1 – Dyess AFB, Texas



**2nd Lt. Scott D. Silvester**  
T-37 – Laughlin AFB, Texas



**2nd Lt. Timothy J. Smith**  
F-16 – Luke AFB, Ariz.



**2nd Lt. Anthony A. Thomas**  
C-141 – McChord AFB, Wash.



**2nd Lt. Matt J. Vukich**  
C-17 – McChord AFB, Wash.



**2nd Lt. Matthew N. Waszak**  
T-37 – Laughlin AFB, Texas

# Don't invite food illness to dinner

By Senior Airman  
Leslie Werlinger

Public Health

The most joyous time of the year is approaching. Family and friends are coming together to share in the holiday spirit.

In the kitchen, food items such as turkey, ham, dressing, cakes and pies are being prepared. Imagine the aroma of all those delicious foods!

There's only one thing that could spoil such a festive occasion—a food borne illness. You can, however, reduce the risk of a food borne illness by practicing safe food handling techniques.

Let's start with the turkey; how should you thaw a turkey? Thawing in the refrigerator is the most preferred method. Turkeys may require thawing from one to five days, depending on size. If you're in a hurry, thaw the "bird" in a clean sink, covered with cold water. Change the water every 30 minutes to keep it cool. Food officials recommend immediate cooking af-

ter thawing. But don't forget to remove the neck and giblet package from inside and to wash the bird well, inside and out, with cold water first. Make sure you wash your hands, utensils, counters, sink, and any other item that may have come in contact with the raw turkey to prevent the spread of bacteria.

Here are a few tips for cooking your turkey. First, avoid the temptation to cook your turkey all night at a low temperature. Cooking below 325 degrees Fahrenheit is unsafe. Low-temperature cooking allows meat to remain too long at temperatures in which bacteria can reproduce to harmful levels. Insert a meat thermometer into the thickest part of the thigh muscle without touching the bone. Estimated cooking times for a turkey is: 15 to 18 minutes per pound; specific directions for cooking times are usually available on the bird's wrapper. To check the turkey for doneness, note the temperature on the meat thermometer.

It should register at least 180 degrees Fahrenheit.

According to the USDA, one of the riskiest things people do is leave the cooked turkey out all day. Unfortunately, while it's sitting there, bacteria are multiplying rapidly. Given the right conditions, harmful germs can double in number every 20 minutes. Snacking on leftover turkey is fine, but don't leave it out for more than two hours.

The best way to store leftovers is in small containers in the refrigerator to aid in rapid cooling. Turkey stored in the refrigerator will generally keep three to four days but stuffing should be used in two days or less.

Also, remember to reheat turkey leftovers (or any poultry items) to a minimum temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit.

Following these few simple precautions can ensure you and your loved ones enjoy a healthy and happy holiday season. If you have any questions, feel free to call the Public Health office at extension 6380.

# Helpful hints for traveling with Tricare

Whether you are heading back to the old family home for the holidays or going skiing this winter, you should take Tricare on the road with you.

Following are a few simple hints, which will make accessing TRICARE on the road easier.

All TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries should:

For emergency care, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.

Carry your (and any family members') military identification card at all times. In addition, Tricare Prime enrollees should carry their Tricare card at all times. If you send your children

traveling, such as visiting their grandparents, you should send their cards and a power of attorney along with them to facilitate any health care they might need.

Carry the telephone number for the 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week Health Care Finder line at 800-406-2832 (option 4). Tricare Prime enrollees can contact an HCF to receive authorization for urgent care if their Primary Care Managers are not available. Tricare Standard and Extra users can call the HCF line for assistance in locating Tricare-approved providers.

Before you leave for your vacation, make certain you have

an adequate supply of any prescription medicines. Speak to your doctor (or PCM) if you believe you will need more prescription medicine.

If you are required to pay for any health care or prescriptions you receive while traveling, keep all bills or other documentation regarding the care. You will have to submit them along with your claim for reimbursement after returning home.

If you receive emergency care while traveling and you are admitted to a hospital, you (or a family member) must contact your PCM or a HCF within 24 hours.

# Toastmasters elects new officers, seeks members

By Capt.  
Andreas Wesemann

47th Flying Training Wing safety

The 'XL'er Club of Toastmasters International held officer elections on Nov. 7. Newly elected officers are:

President: Senior Master Sgt. Joey Walker, Competent Toastmaster

Vice President for Education: Jennifer Murphy

Vice President for Membership: Master Sgt. Bill Arnold

Vice President for Public Relations: Senior Airman Jennifer Nalls

Secretary-Treasurer: Capt. Jo Lindberg

Sergeant-at-Arms: Staff Sgt. Anthony Dutton

**The word is out.** Toastmasters means effective communication. In this Information Age, you're probably more at ease communicating by electronic mail and telephone than you are face to face. Speaking to groups large or small may intimidate or even frighten you. In Toastmasters, you'll learn how to successfully formulate, express, and sell your ideas and yourself.

**Everybody's talking.** At a Toastmasters meeting, everyone talks; that's how you improve! You'll build 'quick-thinking' skills as you give one-to-two minute impromptu speeches on general subjects. You'll introduce speakers, give prepared speeches, conduct meetings, and perform other roles, assuring you a wide variety of communication experiences.

You'll love the applause. Constructive feedback, or evaluation, is the heart of the Toastmasters program. Whenever

you give a prepared speech, an evaluator will point out the presentation's strengths and offer suggestions for improving your next speech. In the beginning, your Club members will applaud your effort, but later they'll applaud your skill.

**Leadership is an art.** You can't learn to be a leader in one day; it takes practice. In Toastmasters, you'll build leadership skills when you organize and conduct meetings and motivate others to help you. You can earn leadership awards by working on a leadership project related to your personal or professional life or by serving as a Club leader.

**Speaking of your career.** You've probably noticed that many of the people you admire in your profession are great speakers and leaders. The skills you learn in Toastmasters will take you to their level and beyond. Isn't it time for you to speak up?

**Results?** The third Quarterly Awards Luncheon highlighted several of our local Toastmasters. SMSgt Charles Wingate stepped in last minute to be the Emcee. The Invocation was given by Chaplain Hamilton. Award winners included three Toastmasters: Staff Sgt. Anthony Dutton, Orie Gonzalez, and Capt. Andreas Wesemann. In addition, Senior Airman Jennifer Nalls was a member of the Honor Guard. And Chief Master Sergeant Randy Crist was also an active member.

Come join us every Tuesday from 11:40 a.m. until 12:40 p.m. at the Chapel Annex. Contact any one of the above officers for more information.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Reginal Woodruff

Stepping to fitness

Sandy Hayenga, an aerobics instructor at the XL Fitness Center, leads students through a 5 p.m., step aerobics class. A variety of aerobic classes are offered at the fitness center daily. Other classes include circuit training and kick boxing. For more information about aerobics classes, call 298-0321.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Reginal Woodruff

Iron-full diet

Staff Sgt. Charles Jones, 47th Flying Training Wing, gets in a few bench-press reps before his daily workout routine. Jones was the winner in the 151-175 pound weight class and the overall winner for the bench-press competition at the XL Fitness Center Wednesday. His final lift was 265 pounds, 90 pounds more than he weighs. Other winners were Jason Yoder in the 201-225 weight class with a press of 255 pounds and Jo Lindberg in the female, 120 pounds and over category. The winners received trophies, all participants received a t-shirt.

**Fitness note:**  
**Think safety when**  
**working out with**  
**heavy equipment,**  
**always use a spotter.**

FILLER

Laughlin's NFL: Gridiron Gurus							Week 12		
PLAYERS	Bruce Bond	Diane Bond	Eric Gonzales	Michael Houston	David Isbell	Lavelle Jenkins	Eric Linneman	Amanda Stewart	Chad Workman
LAST WEEK SCORE	10	9	8	9	5	8	8	6	5
OVERALL SCORE	71	65	60	63	54	61	69	59	54
ARIZONA@PHILADELPHIA	PHI	PHI	PHI	PHI	PHI	PHI	PHI	PHI	PHI
BUFFALO@KANSAS CITY	BUF	K.C.	K.C.	K.C.	K.C.	K.C.	BUF	K.C.	K.C.
CAROLINA@MINNESOTA	MIN	MIN	MIN	MIN	MIN	MIN	MIN	MIN	MIN
CINCINNATI@NEW ENGLAND	N.E.	N.E.	N.E.	N.E.	N.E.	N.E.	N.E.	N.E.	N.E.
TAMPA BAY@CHICAGO	T.B.	T.B.	T.B.	CHI	T.B.	T.B.	T.B.	T.B.	T.B.
CLEVELAND@TENNESSEE	TEN	TEN	TEN	TEN	TEN	TEN	TEN	TEN	TEN
DETROIT@NEW YORK GIANTS	NYG	NYG	NYG	NYG	NYG	NYG	NYG	NYG	NYG
OAKLAND@NEW ORLEANS	OAK	OAK	OAK	OAK	OAK	OAK	OAK	OAK	OAK
INDIANAPOLIS@GREEN BAY	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND
SAN DIEGO@DENVER	DEN	DEN	S.D.	DEN	DEN	DEN	DEN	DEN	S.D.
NEW YORK JETS@MIAMI	MIA	MIA	MIA	NYJ	MIA	MIA	MIA	MIA	NYJ
DALLAS@BALTIMORE	BAL	BAL	DAL	BAL	BAL	BAI	BAL	BAL	DAL
ATLANTA@SAN FRANCISCO	S.F.	S.F.	S.F.	S.F.	S.F.	S.F.	S.F	S.F.	S.F.
JACKSONVILLE@PITTSBURGH	PIT	PIT	PIT	JAX	PIT	PIT	PIT	JAX	PIT
WASHINGTON@ST. LOUIS	STL	STL	STL	STL	ST.	WAS	WAS	WAS	STL

Intramural Flag Football Standings

AFC TEAMS	WIN	LOSS	RECORD CONFERENCE/NONCONFERENCE	POINTS FOR/AGAINST
47OSS	4	0	4-0/	49/8
EAST INC.	3	1	2-0/1-1	34/26
84/85 Tweets	1	2	1-1/0-1	20/57
MED GP	2	2	1-2/1-0	24/26
MSS	1	3	0-2/1-1	28/37
LCSAM	0	4	0-3/0-1	25/41
NFC TEAMS	WIN	LOSS	RECORD CONFERENCE/NONCONFERENCE	POINTS FOR/AGAINST
LSI JETS	4	0	3-0/1-0	74/18
86 RIOS LOBOS	3	1	3-1/	25/34
87 TALONS	3	1	2-1/1-0	52/15
47 CES	3	2	1-2/2-0	58/43
COM/CS/SVS	1	4	1-3/0-1	33/61
47 SFS	0	5	0-3/0-2	12/68

Sports Notes

- Laughlin's annual 5K Turkey Run/Walk will be Saturday starting at 9:30 a.m. at the football/soccer field. The course will be along the jogging trail.  
Prizes will awarded to the top three male and female participants.
- The base varsity basketball team is forming. All Laughlin members, including family members, are welcome to participate. Try-outs for the team are held Tuesday and Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the XL Fitness Center.  
Anyone interested in playing or coaching should contact, Staff Sgt. Ennis Fowler at 5633.
- A base swim team is forming. The team will meet with teams from Randolph and Brooks Air Force Bases, Fort Sam Houston, Del Rio, Uvalde, Hondo and Eagle Pass.  
For more information, call 4194.



## Laughlin history

Q: Maj. Fernando Ribas-Dominicci, for whom the Ribas-Dominicci Circle is named, was a member of Laughlin UPT Class 77-05. Why did Laughlin honor his memory?

- (a) He was a POW held at the Hanoi Hilton for more than 7 years
- (b) He was killed in the Libyan raid of 1986
- (c) Was a Medal of Honor recipient honored for his actions at Kham Duc in Vietnam

A: (b) is the correct answer. Maj. Ribas-Dominicci, a native of Puerto Rico, was killed in action on April 15, 1986 while flying his F-111F in the air raid against Libya. The United States launched the mission, termed Operation El Dorado Canyon, from RAF Lakenheath as a retaliation for terrorist attacks against U.S. citizens abroad. Of the 18 F-111s that struck Libya, only one, the aircraft piloted by Major Ribas-Dominicci and Capt. Paul Lorence, did not return. Their F-111 was probably hit by a surface to air missile as it was reported to be on fire in flight.

## Public notice

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations will conduct an accreditation survey of the 47th Medical Group on Dec 12-14.

The purpose of the survey will be to evaluate the organization's compliance with nationally established Joint Commission standards. The survey will be used to determine whether, and the conditions under which accreditation should be awarded the organization.

Joint Commission standards deal with organizational quality of care and the safety of the environment in which care is provided. Anyone believing that he or she has pertinent and valid information about such matters may request a public information interview with the Joint Commission's field representatives at the time of the survey. Information presented at the review will be carefully evaluated for relevance to the accreditation process. Requests for a public information review must be made in writing and should be sent to the Joint Commission no later than five working days before the survey begins. The request must also indicate the nature of the information to be provided at the interview. Such requests should be addressed to:

**Division of Accreditation Operations**  
**Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations,**  
**One Renaissance Boulevard,**



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

## Sharing culture

Senior Airman Carla Locklear, 47th Medical Group, helps children at the Youth Center build "dream catchers" as a part of American Indian Heritage activities. Locklear and others, also helped children make meals, told stories, perform natives dances and other activities. The next event in observance of American Indian Heritage month is 11 a.m. Monday at the Base Chapel.

### Oakbrook Terrance, IL 60181

The Joint Commission will acknowledge such requests in writing or by telephone and will inform the 47th Medical Group of the request for any interviews. The 47th Medical Group will in turn notify the interviewee of the date, time, and place of the meeting.

## Environmental note

In preparation for Laughlin's external Environmental Compliance Assessment and Management Program inspection in February, the 47th Civil Engineer Squadron environmental flight will provide environmental notes in this section of the Border Eagle.

### Haz Waste

Personnel required to handle hazardous waste must receive RCRA Hazardous Waste Management Training and yearly training updates.

Each hazardous waste stream must have its own initial accumulation point located in the shop where the waste is generated, and records of waste analysis supporting hazardous waste determinations must be maintained for at least three years.

For information on environmental compliance, call 4389.

## Tricare Dental Program

As of today, the Military Personnel

Flight customer service no longer accepts DD Forms 2494 and 2494-1 dental enrollment applications. Direct customer inquiries to the contractor for Tricare Dental Program enrollment, coverage benefits and pay deduction queries will be directed to the contractor. United Concordia Companies begins online dental enrollment application functions Dec. 4. However, coverage will not be effective until Feb. 1, 2001. UCCI will take over the new TDP administration, eligibility, enrollment, payroll allotment authorization, resolution and claim disputes.

If your identification card will expire anytime from now until December 2000, reissue may be required affecting enrollment/coverage.

If you think you may need or want dental insurance, come see MPF Customer Service to sign up before the deadline.

For more information, visit [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/deers](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/deers).

## Food drive

The Company Grade Officer's Council will hold a canned and non-perishable food drive Sunday at the base commissary. All food donated will go to the Bethel Center for distribution to needy families in the area during the Thanksgiving holiday.

For more information, call 1st Lt. Melissa Parent at 4357.

## Holiday closures

The Base Exchange and Shoppette will be closed Thanksgiving day. The commissary will be closed on Thanksgiving and Nov. 24, but will be open Monday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information about hours of operation, call the BX and commissary.

## Air Force Aid Society

The Air Force Aid Society awarded more than \$7.5 million in education grants last year to 5,000 college students. Don't automatically think you won't qualify for this \$1,500 grant. The Society has tailored the program based on reasonable standards that fit Air Force families.

Call 5109 for more information or stop by the Family Support Center.

## Christmas party

Santa is coming! The 47th Operations Group Children's Christmas Party will be held Dec. 3 in the Operation Training Complex. There will be children's story telling, cookie decorating, crafts and much more. The party begins at 2 p.m. with Santa's arrival. Please bring a savory or sweet finger food. All children of Laughlin base personnel, active duty and civilian, are invited.

For more information, call Kathy Doran at 298-3493 or Jann Davidson at 298-1231.

## Golf tournament

The 47th Contracting Squadron will host a Fun Golf Tournament Dec. 2 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Leaning Pine Golf Course. The format is 2-person teams, alternating shot. The cost is \$20 per person. The entry fee includes breakfast tacos, lunch and beverages. Green fees and cart not included. Gift certificates will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place. A portion of the proceeds will go to Operation Jingle.

To register, or for more information, call James Harper at 5123 or Mark Nelson at 4257. A sign up sheet is also available at the Leaning Pine Golf Course. Participants must register by Nov. 28.

## Editor's note:

In the Nov. 10 issue, the winner of the Chiefs-Eagles softball game was incorrectly identified in the final paragraph as the Eagles; the Chiefs won the game.